



# HF Happenings 875

Volume 19, Issue 32, the week of 25 November 2019

HF Happenings from [www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)

Southern African Fauna and Flora <https://zsfaunaandflora.wordpress.com/>

Zone 38 Award and others <https://zone38award.wordpress.com/>

Worldwide List of HF Beacons <https://iaruhfbacons.wordpress.com/>

5 MHz (60 metre) allocations <http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp>



Automatic Telegraph Receiver patented by Samuel Morse in 1837

## The 5 and 10 MHz WAZS and WAGS Weekend

Most radio amateurs will spend time on 80 and 40 metres looking for contacts for their Worked All ZS and Worked All Grid Squares awards. But there are radio amateurs who like a challenge and therefore over the weekend of 7 and 8 December 2019, we will hold the 5 and 10 MHz WAZS and WAGS Challenge.

This is NOT a contest! It is an opportunity to get the necessary QSOs for your WAZS and WAGS using the 60 and 30 metre bands. It is also an opportunity to collect information about the propagation on these two bands.

The challenge runs from 00:00 CAT on Saturday 7 December to 23:59 CAT on Sunday 8 December. Please note that SSB activity on 30 metres is only during local daylight hours, CW and digital modes are 24/7.

For the propagation study, please send a copy of your log to [zs4bfn@mweb.co.za](mailto:zs4bfn@mweb.co.za). And if you have the required QSOs, apply for your Worked All ZS and Worked all Grid Squares on 60 and 30 metres.

## Results of the ZS5 Sprint

The contest committee received 16 logs for the ZS5 Sprint held in July 2019, 15 were contest logs and there were 1 check log.

1<sup>st</sup> Deon Fraser, ZS5DCF – 110 points

2<sup>nd</sup> Woody Collett, ZS3WL – 82 points

## November

30 - [West Rand Flea Market](#)

## December

1 - [Start of YOTA Month](#); World Aids Day; [ZS JS8 Day](#)

2 - [Closing date for SARL VHF/UHF Analogue logs](#)

3 - International Day for People with Disabilities

4 - Schools close

7 – [ARRL FT Roundup](#); International Civil Aviation Day; Sneeuberg Crawl, Murraysburg

7 and 8 – [5 and 10 MHz WAZS and WAGS Weekend](#)

9 - [Closing date for Newbie Party logs](#)

10 - International Human Rights Day

10 to 21 - Ek lief Krismis Market, George

11 - International Mountain Day

12 to 30 - Durban Botanic Gardens Trail of Light

13 to 15 - Gabriëlskloof Favorite Things Market, Bot River

13 to 16 - Eden Kite Festival. Garden Route

14 – Geminids meteor shower

14 and 15 – [ARRL 10 m contest](#)

16 - Day of Reconciliation; Prince Alfred Hamlet Appelkoosfees

22 - Summer Solstice

23 – Ursids meteor shower

23 to 30 - Hanukkah

25 – Christmas Day

26 – Family Day

31 - [End of the 2019 CQ DX Marathon and the YOTA month; get rid of the 2019 Blue Book](#)

## January 2020

1 – [Download the 2020 Blue Book](#); New Year's Day; [start of the CQ DX Marathon](#)

3 and 4 - Quadrantids meteor shower

4 – [ARRL Kids Day](#)

4 and 5 – [ARRL RTTY Roundup](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Highway ARC, ZS5HAM – 52 points  
4<sup>th</sup> Northern Natal ARC, ZS5NAK – 47 points  
5<sup>th</sup> Johan Steyn, ZS6DC - 31 points  
6<sup>th</sup> Hans Kappetijn, ZS6KR – 28 points  
7<sup>th</sup> Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ – 25 points  
8<sup>th</sup> Werner Swanepoel, ZS2WS - 24 points  
9<sup>th</sup> Wynand Nel, ZS6WY - 19 points  
10<sup>th</sup> Eric Lewis, ZS5EL - 14 points  
11<sup>th</sup> Mathew Lyle, ZS5PG and Anthony Rouquette, ZS6ANT – 13 points  
13<sup>th</sup> Albert Schreuder, ZS6SE - 12 points  
14<sup>th</sup> Bruce Dunn, ZS5XT – 9 points  
15<sup>th</sup> Christian Baard, ZS3CRB - 3 points  
Checklog Geoff Levey, ZS6C – 7 points

### **ZS JS8 Day 1 December 2019**

Join us for a day of experimenting with an amazing new digital mode that uses the weak signal magic from FT8 and gives us keyboard to keyboard chats, store and forward messaging, acknowledgments of received messages and the ability to easily relay a message for a distant third-party through one or more stations.

JS8 (the mode) and JS8Call (the software) are easy to set up. Join us on 40 m on 7,078 USB. We aim to be active during the entire day. JS8 is a great mode for South Africa because of the distances and relatively small number of hams that are active. Even with a noisy QTH you can participate in real conversations with actual humans.

Download the Software <http://js8call.com/> and join the ZS JS8 WhatsApp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/lob8lGdQ1OUJdPYijFDMYh>

### **DXCC News**

The following operations have been reportedly approved (on the upcoming Tanzania operation Web page - <http://www.i2ysb.com/idx/> ) for DXCC credit as well as the LoTW certificates: 5I5TT, Tanzania; Upcoming 2020 operation and 5I4ZZ, Tanzania Upcoming 2020 operations.

### **TQSL: New Version**

A new version (v2.5.1) of LoTW's Trusted QSL (TQSL) has been released: <http://www.arrrl.org/tqsl-download>. This version has new features as well as corrections for defects found since TQSL 2.4.7 was released. This release also includes an update to the most recent TQSL configuration file. TQSL 2.5.1 can be installed to upgrade any older version of TQSL. On all three supported platforms (Windows, MacOS and Linux), installing TQSL 2.5.1 will replace older versions of Trusted QSL while preserving your Callsign Certificates, Station Locations and preferences.

### **Radio Tower Safety**

The Daily DX and a number of other sources mentioned Jim's, K1IR, presentation on tower safety originally given to Billerica, Massachusetts ARS. It has also spurred an active discussion on a number of different email reflectors. This is not about technique, it is about tower safety, what the rate of "failures" in performing tower work on amateur radio towers tells us and some suggestions on what practices need improvement to increase tower safety.

<https://blog.thedrivenelement.com/2019/11/amateur-radio-tower-safety-presentation-for-the-billerica-ars/>

### **The FT Roundup**

The FT Roundup is last year's FT8 Roundup, renamed to reflect the inclusion of the new FT4 mode and potential follow-on FT modes in the future. This year, the contest happens the weekend of

7 December 2019. The contest sponsors are suggesting specific frequencies for particular modes - see the rules. While stations can use any legal power level, any power level OVER 100 watts qualifies as a CHECKLOG. See the rules for particular details, such as the use of multiple streams and country-specific segments. <https://www.rttycontesting.com/ft8-roundup/>

### Where FT8 and FT4 communications are happening

Rich, N1IXF, compiled a chart of where FT8 and FT4 communications are happening. These are the conventional frequencies and DXpeditions usually publish special frequencies where they will be operating. <https://groups.io/g/RTTY/message/47684>

### Version v2.1.2 of WSJT-X

Version v2.1.2 of WSJT-X has just been released that addresses several regressions in version v2.1.0 and supersedes released-for-a-day v2.1.1. A list of program changes since WSJT-X 2.1.0 can be found in the cumulative Release Notes. <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html> and [https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release\\_Notes.txt](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release_Notes.txt).

### New SO2R box

There is a new SO2R box in town, brought to you by NN1C, K1XM and W1UE <http://nn1c.org/so2r/>. Features of this new Arduino-based hardware/software product include:

- All inputs/outputs are standard 3,5 mm stereo cables
- No external power supply required - works on USB-supplied voltage
- WinKey emulator and CW steering
- PTT Footswitch input and PTT steering
- Mike Input and Steering
- Headphone Audio - AA, BB, AB and Latch
- Headphone Audio transformer isolated
- Small and lightweight -- about 4 x 2 x 2.5" and 8 oz
- Uses only one USB port
- Compatible with major logging programs
- Price point expected to be \$50-60
- Easy to assemble kit, or options to purchase assembled units
- No switches or LEDs - logging program to control unit

While some have seen pre-production units at a Yankee Clipper Contest Club meeting, it has also been tested on the air in recent contests [www.3830scores.com/showrumor.php?arg=kLapzBmffafm4](http://www.3830scores.com/showrumor.php?arg=kLapzBmffafm4).

### DTR and RTS Signals

"When I boot up my *Microsoft Windows* PC, the PTT and CW keying lines I am driving from a USB serial port pulse my equipment. Why? How do I stop this?" Bob, N6TV, outlines what is going on and what you can do about it in his PDF on how to tame DTR and RTS signal line changes on Windows bootup <https://bit.ly/FTDItip>.

### African DX

*Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award* ([www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp))



Malawi, 7Q. Karl, DK2WV, is active as 7Q7W from Lilongwe since 18 November and will be in Malawi for about 3 weeks. Activity is on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and FT8. QSL via DK2WV.

Togo, 5V. Andy, KB9IJI is a long-term resident in Mango, Togo and has been granted "special permission to legally operate as 5V/KB9IJI" until his application for a call sign is approved, "hopefully

before the end of the year." He plans to operate SSB, CW and digital modes on all HF bands and to upload his log to both LoTW and eQSL.

The Gambia, C5. Andre, ON7YK has been active again as C5YK since 16 November and will remain in Bijilo, The Gambia until early March 2020. He operates digital modes (especially FT8), SSB and some CW on 60 to 10 metres. QSL via LoTW and eQSL, or via home call (see [qrz.com](http://qrz.com) for instructions); log search on <http://www.on7yk.eu/>.

The Gambia, C5. Paul, SA6PIS will be active holiday style as C56PIS from Bakau, The Gambia from 28 November to 13 December. QSL via home call.

Zambia, 9J. Mario, IK1MYT is active as 9J2MYT from Lusaka, Zambia until May 2020. He can be active on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. QSL direct to IZ3KVD.

Tanzania, 5H. Chas, NK8O/VE3ISD, will once again be active as 5H3DX from Zinga, Tanzania, between 16 February and 16 March 2020. Activity will be from the paediatric hospital at Zinga. Usual operations will be holiday style. Power output will be the legal limit for Tanzania at 100 W and the primary antenna should be a Hexbeam configured for 40 to 6 metres, including the WARC bands. Operations will be primarily CW, with PSK31, FT8 and possibly SSB. He states that he will use a simple wire antenna and his KX3 with a KXPA100 amp. See QSL info on QRZ.com. Also, QSL via LoTW and eQSL. NO Bureau.

## African Islands

IOTA Frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Canary Islands, EA8. Andrea, IK1PMR, is currently active as EA8/IK1PMR from Tenerife Island (AF-004) for the next few weeks. Activity is on 160 to 6 metres using all modes with a K3 and 500 W amp. He will also be in the CQ WW DX CW Contest (23 and 24 November) as a Single-Op (band(s) to be decided) entry. QSL via HB9FKK (his Swiss call sign), by the Bureau or ClubLog.



## N1MM Update

N1MM Logger+ users participating in contests with contest-specific macro key definitions and call history files will find this week's program update very worthwhile. You will not have to manually download those files before contest start! According to Larry, K8UT <https://groups.io/g/N1MMLoggerPlus/message/46032>, "This week's update includes a new feature in which N1MM+ will detect/download/install a file for you, rather than requiring you to separately open a browser, find the file and download it. I have not updated the website documentation yet, but here is how it works:

### For Call History Files and Sample Function Key Files:

In the >File >Open Log in Database dialog window, select the >Associated Files tab. Press the [CHANGE] button adjacent to the labels for Call History Filename or Function Key Filename.

If there is a file on the website that matches this contest name, a dialog window will open and ask whether you want to assign it to this contest. If you answer Yes, the file is downloaded and installed. If you answer No, a File Explorer window will open for you to choose a local file (the way N1MM+ has worked for years).

To prevent you from harm - for example, overwriting a Function Key .MC file that you customized with personal preferences - any existing file of the same name will be archived with a .BAK designation.

This feature should be popular with groups like CWOPS whose Call History file changes on a weekly basis." (via N1MM Logger+ group)

Oh, *N1MM Logger+* can now answer "Oui!" to "Parlez-vous Francais?" with the new French language pack available on the logger's website in the Tools area. Vincent, F4CVQ, is the *raison d'être*.

### Word to the Wise

Mu-metal - from Wikipedia: "a nickel-iron soft ferromagnetic alloy with very high permeability, which is used for shielding sensitive electronic equipment against static or low-frequency magnetic fields." In gear with power transformers, it is sometimes used to keep hum out of audio circuitry by shielding those circuits from the transformer's magnetic field.

### Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 18 to 25 November 2019

#### QCX Challenge

13:00 - 14:00 UTC 25 November and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 November

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: HP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and rig

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with QCX station;

1 point per QSO with non-QCX station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 28 November 2019

Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com](http://www.3830scores.com)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: [www.qrp-labs.com/party.html](http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html)

#### SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 November

Geographic Focus: Worldwide

Participation: Worldwide

Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 29 November 2019

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

[www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekday\\_sprint/submit-display.php](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

[www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekday\\_sprint/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/)

#### Phone Fray

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 November

Geographic Focus: North America

Participation: Worldwide

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-

NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7)

once per band; Each VE province/territory

once per band; Each North American country

(except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 29 November 2019

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com](http://www.3830scores.com)



Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
[www.perluma.com/Phone Fray Contest Rule s.pdf](http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rule_s.pdf)

CWops Mini-CWT Test  
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 November  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Awards: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high  
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: Each call once  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 30 November 2019  
Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com](http://www.3830scores.com)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/>

UKEICC 80 m Contest  
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 27 November  
Geographic Focus: Europe  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 m Only  
Classes: Single Op Connected - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unconnected - QRP, low or high  
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: 4-Character grid square  
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km (10 pts max); multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 27 November 2019  
E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://logs.ukaiccc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.ukaiccc.com/80 m-rules.php](http://www.ukaiccc.com/80-m-rules.php)

RSGB 80 m Autumn Series, CW  
20:00 - 21:30 UTC 28 November  
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 m Only  
Classes: 100 W; 10 W  
Exchange: RST and serial no  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 1 December 2019  
Upload log at: [www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl](http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2019/rautumn.shtml](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2019/rautumn.shtml)

NCCC RTTY Sprint  
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 29 November  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: RTTY  
Bands: (see rules)  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 1 December 2019  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com/](http://www.3830scores.com/)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html](http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html)

NCCC Sprint  
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 November  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: (see rules)  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 1 December 2019

E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: [www.3830scores.com/](http://www.3830scores.com/)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html](http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html)

Russian WW MultiMode Contest  
12:00 UTC 30 November to 11:59 UTC 1  
December  
Mode: CW, SSB, RTTY, BPSK63  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band Single Mode – CW,  
SSB, RTTY, BPSK63; Single Op All Band Mixed;  
Single Op High Bands Mixed; Single Op Low  
Bands Mixed; Multi-Single Mixed; SWL  
Exchange: UA: RST(Q) and 2-character oblast;  
non-UA: RST(Q) and QSO no  
Work stations: Once per band per mode  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same  
country on 20/15/10 m; 3 points per QSO with  
different country same continent on 20/15/10

m; 5 points per QSO with different continue on  
20/15/10 m; 2 points per QSO with same  
country on 160/80/40 m; 6 points per QSO  
with different country same continent on  
160/80/40 m; 10 points per QSO with different  
continue on 160/80/40 m  
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per mode  
per band; Each oblast once per mode per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO  
points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 6 December 2019  
E-mail logs to: [rusww@rdrclub.ru](mailto:rusww@rdrclub.ru)  
Upload log at:  
[http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit\\_log.php?lang=en](http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en)  
n  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [www.rdrclub.ru/news-  
radio/russian-ww-mm-contest/159-rus-ww-  
multimode-contest](http://www.rdrclub.ru/news-radio/russian-ww-mm-contest/159-rus-ww-multimode-contest)

### Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 3 December  
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 4 December  
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 December  
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC  
5 December  
QRP ARCI Topband Sprint, 00:00 - 03:00 UTC 5 December  
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB) and 20:00 - 21:00  
UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 5 December  
SKCC Sprint Europe, 20:00 - 22:00 UTC 5 December  
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 6 December  
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 6 December  
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 December  
ARRL 160-Metre Contest, 22:00 UTC 6 December to 16:00 UTC 8 December  
UFT Contest, 05:00 - 08:00 UTC and 15:00 - 18:00 UTC 7 December and 07:00 - 10:00 UTC 8  
December  
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, 06:00 - 06:29 UTC and 06:30 - 06:59 UTC and 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 -  
08:00 UTC 7 December  
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 7 December to 24:00 UTC 8 December  
International Naval Contest, 16:00 UTC 7 December to 15:59 UTC 8 December  
PRO CW Contest, 16:00 UTC 7 December to 15:59 UTC 8 December  
FT Roundup, 18:00 UTC 7 December to 23:59 UTC 8 December  
EPC Ukraine DX Contest, 20:00 UTC 7 December to 19:59 UTC 8 December  
QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint, 20:00 - 23:00 UTC 8 December  
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 9 December

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update,  
OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate  
ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter